Love is First

We are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! We are a curious, inclusive, and diverse gathering of imperfect people united by our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, and service, we seek to know and show the transformative love of God found in the pages of scripture and revealed in the person of Jesus. No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Sunday, August 11, 2024

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out of town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with our pastor after today's worship or share your information with us in the pew pad. We would love to get to know you.

Prayer Concern? Please let us know how we can be praying for you by filling out the welcome card and placing it in the offering plate or by calling the church office (941) 955-8119.

Children Of All Ages Are Welcome in Worship! At the New Song (9:00 a.m.) service there are coloring sheets on the tables and an activity center in the corner. At the traditional (11:00 a.m.) service, children are invited to take a worship bag hanging in the narthex. Sunday School is from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the children's wing on the second floor. Ask a greeter for directions.

To Aid In Worship In the sanctuary, a T-Coil Hearing Loop is available for people with equipped hearing aids. Headphones to amplify sound are also available at the tech booth in the rear of the sanctuary.

Worship Online Livestreams of the contemporary and traditional worship services are available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live, and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@fpcsarasota4017.

Ways To Give There are many ways you can support the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, you may place your gift in the offering plate or you can scan this QR code. It will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you can mail a check to the church office. Thank you for your gifts. Questions? Contact Finance Manager, Lisa Garcia: (941) 955-8119/Lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org.

Our new Director of Christian Education, Eric Robinson, has arrived in Sarasota!

Eric's first day in the office was Tuesday July 30. He had been working remotely for the month of July. He is gearing up for what undoubtedly will be an exciting year in the life of our church.

A reception to welcome Eric will be this Sunday, August, 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Eric is looking forward to meeting you.

Please keep an eye out in *News @ First* and the bulletin in the coming week for a "Meal Train" sign-up for Eric. We are doing this to show our love and appreciation for him as he transitions into his new role and into his new home.



TODAY
August
11
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Backpack Blessing

August
18
10:00 AM
Rally Day

August
25
10:00 AM
Family Worship Workshop

Jimi Camastro's 5 Year Anniversary

Jimi Camastro is a man of many talents, and we are blessed to have him as a member of the First Presbyterian Church Sarasota staff. In 2006, even before he joined the church, Jimi began playing bass and/or electric guitar with the New Song Band, and we have enjoyed his musical prowess for many years. But it was his aptitude for visual and audio production that led to a part-time position with the church. In 2019 he began working on the sound board for both the New Song and Traditional services. During the pandemic, Jimi was instrumental in producing our live stream service each week to maintain that important congregation connection through worship. In addition to his critical behind-the-scenes role at our weekly services, Jimi uploads services to the FPC YouTube channel and provides video and sound support for any outside group who uses the FPC campus. Jimi and his tech team have a can-do attitude, and we are grateful for their efforts.

Backpack Blessing



TODAY at the 9:00 a.m. service and at the 11:00 a.m. service, we will have the **Blessing of the Backpacks!** It's a great way to celebrate our children and youth and give them an amazing send-off before the first week of school.

Rally Day!



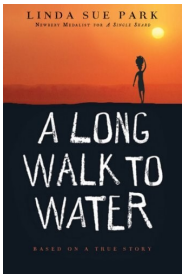
Next week, August 18 please join us for Rally Day! This will be a great time to meet your Sunday School teachers and celebrate the start of a new school and church year.

Worship Workshop



On August 25 we will host a Family Worship Workshop for children, youth, and their families. It will take place in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10 a.m.- 10:50 a.m. We will creatively learn about the different elements of worship and consider how our children and youth can become more deeply involved and connected with worship.

The Summer Book Read for First Presbyterian



A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

This book begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is a two-hour walk from her home; she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan: refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. The paperback book can be purchased from Amazon for approximately $6.25. See *News@First* for more information.

Fall Salt Shakers Sign Up Now!



Joining Salt Shakers is a wonderful way for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to get to know each other. Groups of 6-8 people (singles or couples) meet once a month from September through November/December. Each group decides whether they want to have a potluck at a member's home, dine at a restaurant, or have a picnic or brunch. Sign up forms are in the foyer of the fellowship hall and the narthex of the sanctuary. Questions? Call Marcia Schaper (941) 922-5245 or (941) 539-9207 (cell). Last day to sign up is the end of August.

Now Is A Great Time…



It's not too late to add your voice to our Chancel Choir! This welcoming group will give you spiritual encouragement, artistic growth, and a place to serve. And *Celtic Christmas* music starts soon. No audition is required, although some rudimentary music reading skills are needed. Give us a try on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the Forum. Call Steven at (850) 567-3197 if you need that last little nudge to get you in the door!

Would you like receive our Friday E-Newsletter? E-mail info@FirstPresSarasota.org to be added to our distribution list.

